

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Ulf LADEGREN

Appl. No.: New Group: Unknown

Filed: December 31, 2001 Examiner: UNKNOWN

For: PROBING OF SPECIFIC NUCLEIC ACIDS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

December 31, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. New claims 1-21 are believed to distinguish over the basic references applied against the claims in the parent application, for the following reasons:

The probes in NILSSON et al. are not provided with cleavable functions or dissociable detectable functions. In Figures 3 and 4 of the NILSSON paper, the probe itself is detectable, and is not provided with a dissociable detectable function. In NILSSON et al. (Figures 3 and 4) the target is immobilized to a solid

phase, not the probes. The probes are not provided with a solid phase anchor (A).

URDEA et al. do not teach circularizable probes. In URDEA only one probe end hybridizes to the target. In the present invention both probe ends (step a) hybridize to the target sequence and form a circularized structure. The purpose in URDEA is not to make circles. The structures in URDEA rather resemble "trees".

Passage to issue at the time of the first Official Action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments